

JOSEPH EARL AND LAURA BRINGHURST SMITH

Lehi Centennial History 1850-1950

Joseph Earl Smith, a farmer who has wholeheartedly worked for the advancement and betterment of agriculture, now serves as chairman of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency. He was the first Utah County chairman, being elected in 1933 by the farmers of Utah County. He is also chairman of the Alpine district Soil Conservation Service of Utah County, appointed by the State Department of Agriculture.

He was born in Lehi, March 26, 1894, the youngest son of Hyrum and Eliza Fowler Smith. As a boy he worked with his father on the farm. He was baptized into the Latter-day Saint Church, September 27, 1902, and married Laura Bringhurst, February 18, 1914, in the Salt Lake Temple.

In April, 1914, they took up a homestead of 160 acres in the north end of Cedar Valley, living there in the summers for the following five years, their only transportation being a horse and buggy. This was their beginning in dry farming, which advanced into the operation of hundreds of acres of land with the most modern machinery, and the production of thousands of bushels of grain.

He was a member of the Lehi Business Club and a charter member of the Lehi Lions Club. He served on the ration board during World War II, was several times president of the local Farm Bureau, and also on the County Farm Bureau board.

While head of the Farm Bureau in 1938, he sponsored the pea canning industry in Lehi, which has become a major industry. The first vinery was located across the road west from Luther Coates home.

Faithful and dependable in Church activities, he spent two years in the Elder's Quorum Presidency, two years in the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association Presidency and was First Ward clerk from 1935 until 1946.

Laura Bringhurst Smith, daughter of William A. and Marth Grainger Bringhurst was born in Toquerville, Utah, August 14, 1895, the sixth child of a family of twelve, six boys and six girls. Mr Bringhurst was called to serve in the California mission for the Latter-day Saint Church when Laura was a small child.

She was baptized by her father March 6, 1904, and moved to Lehi in 1908. She was married to Joseph Earl Smith, February 18, 1914, in the Salt Lake Temple. Their children are Phyllis, Mrs. Johnstone Lind; Glenn E.; and Grant B., Lehi.

Active in church work, she served in the First Ward Primary Presidency thirteen years, being president ten years. Her three children all graduated from this organization while she was president. She served in the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association Presidency, on the Stake Primary board, and in the Ward Relief Society Presidency.

At present she is active in the Athenian Literary Club, and the Fort Wall Camp, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.